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REMARKS

Claims 4 and 6 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicants claim as their invention. Claim 5 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Claim 9 stands withdrawn. Now pending in the application are claims 4 and 6-9.

Applicants submit that the amendments are properly entered pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116 as the amendments cancel 5 and are believed to put the remaining claims in condition for allowance. Therefore, entry and consideration of the amendments are proper and such action is requested.

The amendment and/or cancellation of claims is without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof and was done solely to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original subject matter of this application in a later filed application claiming benefit of the instant application, including without prejudice to any determination of equivalents of the claimed subject matter.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's acknowledgement that prior claim 5 recites patentable subject matter.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 4 and 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Horstmann et al. in view of Leonard et al. and Loeper. This rejection is traversed.

While Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's position with respect to the patentability of claims 4 and 6-8 as previously pending, to expedite the prosecution and allowance of the application, the claims have been amended such that the language of prior claim 5 has been incorporated into claim 4 and claim 5 has been cancelled. Claims 4 and 6 have also been amended to correct matters of form.

In view of the Examiner's indication that prior claim 5 was free of the art of record, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4, which now includes the language of prior claim 5, is

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also free of the art, and that claims 6-8, which include all the limitations of claim 4, are also allowable.

For at least the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is proper and such action is requested.

Rejoinder of Claim 9

Claim 9 currently stands withdrawn. However, in view of the allowability of claim 7, from which claim 9 depends, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder, consideration, and allowance of claim 9.

CONCLUSION

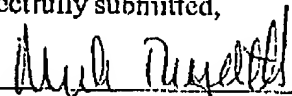
For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants request reconsideration of the application. Early and favorable action is requested.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105, under Order No. 55732(71526).

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Respectfully submitted,

By



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